

# FAFSA Tips & Planning

## The Basics

- A new FAFSA form opens on Oct. 1 each year
- Tax information is needed from two years prior  
*Example:* 2021 HS graduate & parent will use their 2019 tax info
- Must have an FSA ID to e-sign the FAFSA

## FAFSA Priority Filing Dates

	January 1
	November 15
	March 1

## Tips for Creating an FSA ID

- Students & parents can create their FSA ID's well before starting the FAFSA (3 days or more)
- An email address is recommended, but is **not** required to set up an FSA ID account
- A Social Security Number **is required** to create an FSA ID account
- Give students/parents a template ahead of time, which they can save for their records
  - SSN, Name on SS card, DOB, username created, security questions & answers
- Give students examples of security questions they are likely to remember
  - *Example:* Favorite flavor of Doritos? Brand of shoes? Favorite singer?
- Give students examples of "significant" dates in their lives
  - *Example:* Date received driver's license; Graduation; Senior Prom; etc.

## Best Practices

**Collaboration:** Create a college- going initiative on campus that involves the principal, counselors, support staff, teachers, and students in the planning process

**Monitor FAFSA Finish Line Data:** Assign a designated counselor to take the lead in monitoring student FAFSA Finish Line Data, and pull the data weekly to identify students who have a completed FAFSA application, students with incomplete/missing signatures or information, and students selected for verification.

**Marketing and Promotion:** Market your FAFSA and college application events to students and their families by e-mail, schools newsletters, social media, morning announcements, text messages etc.

**Host FAFSA and college application events in fall and spring:** Coordinate FAFSA events in the fall semester to kick-off FAFSA season and in early spring to catch any students who may not have completed an application in the fall.

Visit [collegegoal.az.gov](https://collegegoal.az.gov) for more resources